

**THE PROMISE OF
THE CHRIST-AGE IN
RECENT LITERATURE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649546039

The Promise of the Christ-Age in Recent Literature by William Eugene Mosher

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM EUGENE MOSHER

**THE PROMISE OF
THE CHRIST-AGE IN
RECENT LITERATURE**

**The
Promise of the Christ-Age
in Recent Literature**

By

William Eugene Mosher, Ph.D.

UNIV. OF,
CALIFORNIA

**G. P. Putnam's Sons
New York and London
The Knickerbocker Press**

1912

COPYRIGHT, 1928
BY
WILLIAM EUGENE MOSHER

TO MISS
AMBROUSIA

The Knickerbocker Press, New York

PN 49
M 7

PREFACE

THE purpose of the accompanying investigation is to call attention to the general, practically international, interest in the Christ figure and the message of Christ, as indicated in the writings of certain novelists and dramatists of note. The prominence of the authors, the popularity of the works treated, as well as the simultaneity of the publication of the latter, have seemed to warrant a consideration of these recent writings, as presaging a pronounced religious trend in the cultural development of the immediate future. It is very significant that such unanimity of interest should prevail among the leading authors of various countries, when otherwise general confusion reigns as to moral and religious standards. In this connection, it seems appropriate to lay particular stress upon the interpretive and prophetic function of literature as its prime heritage of the past. These two or three considerations form the justification of the title: *The Promise of the Christ-Age in Recent Literature*.

In an appendix are grouped the titles of fifteen to twenty other novels and dramas by representative authors of various countries, which serve to make the position assumed even more tenable.

iii

242438

The individual works denoted in the following table of contents, have been treated in some detail with reference to the main theme—Christ or the Christ regenerate—on the ground that foreign works are not usually accessible to the average American reader. Such treatment has furthermore afforded opportunity to point out how the most varied and wide-spread movements of our day align themselves with respect to the personality of Christ.

W. E. M.

OSHELIN, OHIO, January, 1912.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	I
FRENSSEN'S "HILLIGENLEI"	28
LAGERLÖF'S "ANTI-CHRIST"	38
SUDERMANN'S "JOHN"	53
ROSTAND'S "THE SAMARITAN WOMAN"	64
WIDMANN'S "THE SAINT AND THE ANIMALS"	73
ANDREYEV'S "JUDAS ISCARIOT AND THE OTHERS"	83
KENNEDY'S "THE SERVANT IN THE HOUSE"	97
FOGAZZARO'S "THE SAINT"	108
PONTOFFIDAN'S "THE PROMISED LAND"	122
HAUPTMANN'S "THE POOL IN CHRIST, EMANUEL QUINT"	134
CONCLUSION	170
APPENDIX	174

The Promise of the Christ- Age in Recent Literature

INTRODUCTION

IN all periods of transition there are naturally two predominant tendencies; the one is called rejection and its path is marked by unseemly ruins; the other is called assertion and its way is marked by the most manifold and varied structures imaginable. The impression made by either or both is that of a chaos.

Such a condition prevails in many fields of human activity to-day. For instance, reference might be made to the effects of the application of scientific standards. Under the caption "Efficiency," the scientific spirit has thrown the industrial and technical world, and, to some degree, the educational, also, into a state of confusion and discord.

On the other hand, the changes that are being caused by the awakening sense of social justice, are not less evident. This spirit has made itself felt in the fields of national, state, and civic